

That our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer

# St Peter's and St Philip's Newsletter

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www.stpeterscatholic.church www.churchservices.tv/stockport

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Mother of God  
Local  
Missionary  
Area  
in Stockport

## YOU ARE ALL WELCOME TO OUR PARISH COMMUNITIES

If you wish to attend Mass at St Peters on Saturday or Sunday then you should reserve a place by e mailing admin@stpetershazelgrove.org.uk.

If you wish to attend Mass at St Philip's on Saturday evening the you should e mail david.smith72220@ntlworld.com



### THE WORD OF GOD

#### FIRST READING:

Isaiah 63: 16-17.64: 1.3-8

#### PSALM 79

God of hosts,bring us back;let your face shine on us and we shall be saved

#### SECOND READING:

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9;

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia Alleluia

Let us see, O Lord,your mercy and give us your saving help Alleluia!

#### GOSPEL READING:

Mark 13: 33-57

#### DAILY ROSARY

If anyone would like to volunteer to come and lead a daily Rosary at 7 00 p.m. then let Fr Peter know

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated by appointment and subject

### 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Year B

Divine Office Psalter Week 1

ALL SERVICES FROM ST PETERS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE LIVE STREAM Each evening the Rosary will be said at 7 00 p.m, except Sunday then at 5 00 p.m. join in on line www.churchservices.tv/stockport

#### Saturday 28th November 2020

11.00—11.45 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament **CHURCH OPEN**

12 Noon Margaret and Tom Conway

Readings: Apocalypse 22: 1-7; Psalm 94; Luke 21: 34-36

This Saturday Mass at 12 Noon will use the texts for Sunday

#### Sunday 29th November 2020 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

10.00 am Wilcock,Reid and White families

Readings: Isaiah 63: 16-17.64:1.3-8; Psalm 79; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9; Mark 13: 33-57

#### Monday 30th November 2020—St. ANDREW,Ap

12 noon Graham Wallworth

Readings: Romans 10: 9-18;Psalm 18;Matthew 4: 18-22

#### Tuesday 1st December 2020 Ss Andrew Dung-Lac P & Companions, Mm

10.00 am Requiem Mass for Hannah Casey (INVITATION ONLY) note time

Readings: Isaiah 11: 1-10; Psalm 71; Luke 10: 21-24

#### Wednesday 2nd December 2020 Church opens for Mass today onwards

12 noon Bernard Elsdon RIP

Readings: Isaiah 25: 6-10; Psalm 22; Matthew 15: 29-37

#### Thursday 3rd December 2020—St. Francis Xavier,P,R

DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER FOR ALL MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

10.00 June McAsey (note time)

Readings: Isaiah 26: 1-6;Psalm 117; Matthew 7: 21.24-27

#### Friday 4th December 2020

11.30 am Requiem Mass for Ian Hall (INVITATION ONLY) ) note time

6-8 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Readings: Isaiah 29: 17-24; Psalm 26; Matthew 9: 27-31

#### Saturday 5th December 2020

11.00—11.45 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

12 Noon John Burke RIP

6.00 pm Mass as St. Philips Offerton

Readings: Isaiah 30:19-21.23-26; Psalm 146; Matthew 9: 35-10:1.6-8

This Saturday Mass at 12 Noon will use the texts for Sunday

#### Sunday 6th December 2020 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

10.00 am People of the Parish

6.00 pm Monica McShane

Readings: Isaiah 40; 1-5.9-11; Psalm 84; 2 Peter 3:8-14;Mark 1: 1-8

BIBLE SUNDAY

DETAILS OF THE CHRISTMAS MASSES AND HOW TO BOOK WILL BE ANNOUNCED NEXT WEEKEND



**The sick** - remembering, all the sick in the parish, in our hospitals and nursing homes. We also remember those who are housebound and are unable to come to Mass. We remember especially young people who are sick. Let us also keep in our prayers all those who have care of the sick and the dying at this time often putting their own lives at risk in the process..

**Lately Dead:**

**Anniversaries that occur around this time:** Dick Drain, Carmel Mitchell, Ann Burges, Mary Selby, Thomas Hazley, Theodora Mowatt, Mary Brammer, Anna Kazio, Elizabeth Mulvey, David Byrne, Irene Entwistle, Francis Scholey

**Prayer Intentions** - We have a team of 'prayer warriors' who will pray for your intentions at this time, send your intentions to the parish office and they will be forwarded. You can also light a 'virtual' candle on the parish website.

*To prepare for this prayer, spend a few moments asking the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to hear this Word being spoken to you*

**1st Sunday in Advent (Year B)**

**Mark 13:33–37**

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Be on your guard; stay awake, because you never know when the time will come.

It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants

in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake.

So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming,

evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find

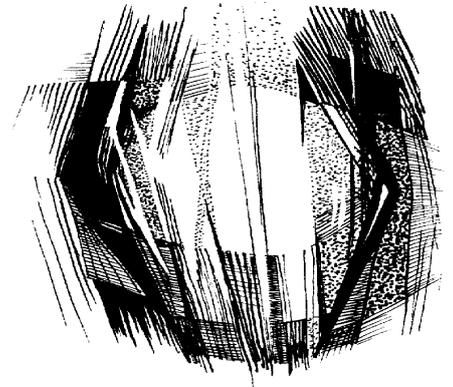
you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

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1. Spend some time quietly reading and rereading the passage, noting the words/phrases that draw your attention.
2. Take time to reflect on your approach to waiting in everyday life.
3. ' Stay awake' ... Keep watch ... Wait patiently ...'The Master is coming' ... In this season of watchful waiting, pray of the grace to become aware of all that God has given you...and for the grace to respond from the depths of your heart.
4. Take time to talk with Jesus about his call to you to 'Stay awake' to welcome his presence midst all the daily busy-ness.

**For Conversation:**

How a conscious watchfulness, waiting for God, might become a greater part of you/your community's life.



## WELCOME TO ADVENT

Advent is above all a time for reawakening to the presence of the Lord in our lives and being ready to greet Him. There are all sorts of resources on line including the Jesuits <https://www.pathwaystogod.org/>. Our own Diocesan Youth Mission Team have lots of resources on their website <https://www.symt.org.uk/resources/> for the younger end of our parishioners but everyone will find something there to help make the most of this holy season.

We shall continue with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Friday evenings from 6—8 00 p.m. And Fr Peter will be available for Reconciliation. There is a whole day of prayer—well 12 hours—on Friday December 11th. So Advent is not all about Christmas shopping or sending cards!!.

### ST PETER'S HELPERS

St Peter's Helpers are still here to make friendly phone calls to people who might appreciate this. Do you know someone who would benefit from this? We are also providing an 'emergency essential shopping / errands service', for those people who are suddenly unable to get to the shops, due to sudden illness or the need to self isolate. Get in touch with us on [stpe-tershelpers@gmail.com](mailto:stpe-tershelpers@gmail.com) or if you do not have email, please call the church office on 0161 483 3476.

## DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PARISH FRIDAY DECEMBER 11TH

**9 00 A.M.—9 00 P.M.**

There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with a pause for Mass at 12 noon. Fr Peter will be available for Reconciliation from 10 30—11 30 and 6 00 p.m.—8 00 p.m.

Come and pray for the parish, come and get ready for Christmas, come and pray for an end to the pandemic.

### ST JOSEPH'S STOCKPORT

Are holding a 24 hour vigil next Friday December 4th from 12 noon Mass till Mass the following day at 12 noon. There will be Praise and Worship, Divine Mercy Devotions and other activities.

**BEREAVEMENT GROUP** Our next Zoom meeting will be on Tuesday 8th December, at 2.00—3.00 pm, if you have not joined us before and would like to then please get in touch with Rachel and she will send you the link, or you can connect with us by phone. We have a really good chat and always a laugh, plus prayer and reflection. Please get in touch if you would like to know more about the Zoom meeting.

Helen 07854928072 helenlyons1957@hotmail.co.uk  
Rachel 07724749217 rachelemckay@icloud.com.

**ST. PETERS'S PARISH BOOK** We all enjoyed *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett - a book which spans five decades and explores the idea of losing a mother and gaining an 'evil stepmother.'

For December, we have decided to read *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell, which is a story about Agnes, William Shakespeare's wife and the loss of their son Hamnet.

The novel is described as 'a luminous portrait of a marriage which has at its heart the loss of a beloved child.'

We would also like to suggest *All The Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr, which is about a girl who is blind living in France during the Second World War. *The Familiars* by Stacey Halls is also highly recommended with its focus on the real-life Pendle Hill Witch Trials.

We will meet again just before Christmas, on **Tuesday 22nd December at 7.30pm** via Zoom - if you would like to be invited to join the meeting please contact Alison McGarr on 07792 107152 or email [ajmcgarr68@outlook.com](mailto:ajmcgarr68@outlook.com)

### CHRISTMAS WREATHS

Many of our parishioners purchase Christmas wreaths from me at the annual Christmas Fair. I am still making them this year and I am willing to deliver them to your home address should you wish to purchase.

Items for Sale:

Red door wreaths £10 White door wreath £10 Natural door wreath £12 Grave wreath £7 Crem Pots £5

Crem bars £5

Pictures can be seen of St Peters Facebook page and Colette Christie Floristry facebook page

Please contact me on 07714470854 or by email [colette.christie4982@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:colette.christie4982@hotmail.co.uk) leaving details of your order, date of delivery and address.

### STOCKPORT FOODBANK

We have had an URGENT request from the Foodbank asking for parishioners to leave food in the baskets at Sainsbury's or Asda or if you prefer send a cheque to them at Hazel Grove Baptist Church, Station Street, Hazel Grove, Stockport SK7 4EX.

### CHRISTMAS DECORATING

We are planning to decorate the benches in the Church at Christmas with knitted Christmas tree bunting. We will need about 200 tress knitted to decorate all the benches. Ann Munnelly will then attach them to ribbon to make sure they are all the right size. If you are able to knit and have time to help please contact Ann [ann.munnelly@gmail.com](mailto:ann.munnelly@gmail.com) or call 01625 874488. Ann is happy to get you the wool. The pictures and a pattern can be found on the Parish Website. On the Newsletter section.

### COMPASS IN ADVENT...preparing for Christmas

Our lives are being turned upside down at the moment due to Covid-19.

Join us to reflect on some of the characters in the Christmas story whose lives were also radically changed.

How is God speaking to us through these stories today?

Each Friday we will focus on one set of characters. The meeting will also include a sharing of a contemporary story of vocation/call. There will be time for sharing, questions and discussion.

Who? – Young adults 18-35

When? Fridays - 27th Nov, 4th , 11th , 18th Dec

Time? 7pm for one hour

Zoom link: email us on [CompassInAdvent@gmail.com](mailto:CompassInAdvent@gmail.com) for the link and for any other information.

Facebook event: <https://bit.ly/CompassInAdvent>

*Compass is a project of CVP (Catholic Vocations Project). CVP is supported by a group of religious women and men in the UK who are interested in promoting a culture of vocation in our Church.*

**Offertory Gifts** Thank you for your generous donations last week which amounted to £191plus around £1000 per week by Standing Orders and on line giving at the moment... Thank you to those who are putting their Offertory envelopes through the door and who have done the on line giving.. THE NEW SET OF OFFERTORY ENVELOPES FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW FINANCIAL YEAR IN APRIL ARE STILL AVAILABLE IN THE PORCH. THEY ARE CLEARLY MARKED WITH YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS AND THEY WILL STILL BE THERE WHEN WE GET BACK TO 'NORMAL'!

**DURING THE PRESENT EMERGENCY WE STILL HAVE BILLS TO PAY!!** Please continue to put your offerings in an envelope and save them until we are 'back to normal' or you can post them through the presbytery door. If you wish you can send an offering by cheque payable to St Peters Hazel Grove or do a direct transfer to:

**St Peters Hazel Grove at Lloyds Bank 30 15 52 54607668** or set up a Standing Order or for St Philip's go to **St Philips Offerton 30 15 52 54674660**

If your bank asks for the name of the account it is **Shrewsbury Roman Catholic Diocese Trustees** with the above account numbers

**Church Cleaning:** Team 2 are back on duty this week

### LISTENING TO MASS VIA THE PHONE

DO YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO DOES NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET AND WANTS TO LISTEN TO MASS - HERE ARE THE INSTRUCTIONS n

To join our Mass via telephone please follow the below steps.

Call: 0131 460 1196

An automated voice will say: "Welcome to Zoom. Enter your meeting ID followed by hash"

Without hanging up, dial the following number into your keypad: 848 5356 7011

Then dial this key - #

The automated voice will ask for a Participant ID but you can just hold the line, after a few seconds you will be connected.

The automated voice will say "Please enter the meeting password followed by Hash"

Then dial: 99#

Your telephone will be muted, so while you can hear Mass, nobody else will be able to hear what you say.

Suggested time for ringing in is 5 minutes before Mass starts.

Please Note - Call charges may apply depending on the plan you have with your provider

### FROM FR PETER

Our Prime Minister came up with some good news this week by announcing the re opening of our churches for public worship from this Wednesday onwards. He then put us into 'tier 3' which means that church is about the only place anyone can come to apart from shops. So we are back to where we were a few weeks ago so from this Wednesday you will be able to come to Mass again. There is no need to book in for Masses on Monday to Friday but you should book for Masses on Saturday and Sunday but only for one of the three Masses on those two days . Note that Mass this Friday is a Requiem Mass and attendance is by invitation only because we are still restricted to only 30 people attending funerals. Don't ask me why!!

This weekend marks the beginning of Advent, a time of preparation for the great feast of the Nativity of the Lord—Christmas. Perhaps one of the advantages of lockdown or being in tier 3 is that we do have a bit more time to be still and reflect on the coming of the Saviour. The Jesuits have a very good website with some simple good ideas for observing Advent

<https://www.pathwaystogod.org/>

Once on that click on the First Sunday of Advent and then all sorts of hints and helps will come up.. If you know of any similar helpful websites then let me know and we can share them with the rest of the parish.

In the mean time, wear your masks, wash your hands, keep your distance and as Boris says, 'Be jolly careful!'

*Fr Peter*



Some of you will know Celia Bermingham from the Guided Prayer Weeks and from time to time she will be sending us some articles for reflection on our prayer lives. Here's another one continuing from last week, so find a quiet 10 minutes during lockdown and have a read. If you are working from home then nobody will know what you are reading!!!

### Week 3.

PRAYER MUST BE A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD WHO LOVES YOU IMMENSELY.

REFLECTION: How do we go about developing this relationship with God? When you first meet someone, you don't know anything about them. They are strangers. But, if you feel drawn to them, you will find an opportunity to talk to them, invite them for coffee, meet them for outings, share likes and dislikes, introduce them to your other friends, discuss interests and hobbies, tell them of your lives and your work, listen to what they have done, what they hope for and what worries them. You will share experiences and photos, laugh together, tell jokes and relax in silence. New acquaintances become friends when you can do all this comfortably.

There's nothing extraordinary in all this but we fail to deal with Jesus in the same way. So how can we go about becoming friends with Jesus? The best way is to meet him. Where? In the Gospels. Each time we open the Bible we learn a little more about him.

In the Old Testament we meet him in Prophecy. In the four Gospels we meet him in his life. In the rest of the New Testament we meet him in his mystical body, the Church and in the insights of the Apostles. So, to get to know Jesus we have to read his story, look at him as he relates to others, watch him with children, with the sick, with his mother, with his disciples and with sinners. See him perform miracles of healing, feeding and raising from the dead. See him in prayer, in times of intimacy with his Father, in times of aggravation with those who would not accept him or listen to him and in times of revelation to his disciples. We can learn about his life from his birth to his death.

By reading and looking and by being with him, in our imaginations, at these times we get to know him and learn to listen, to watch, to imitate, to desire his closeness and his friendship.

Meditation, a word which we might be a little bit in awe of, is the opportunity for this, because meditation is simply thinking about, reflecting on something and then responding. We do a lot of thinking/meditating if we are about to change career, or move house, or have a holiday. We think, we reflect, we deal with it. We all meditate!!! It's not difficult.

In prayer, we read the scriptures, we look at Jesus, we reflect on what he is doing/saying/offering and then we respond. We deal with it in prayer by thinking about it, seeing what it reveals about this person whom we want to know and by chatting to him about it. We tell him how we feel, what we think about him at this moment, how we would like to have been there, what he could do for us, how we would like to be part of his life and how we would like to be in partnership with him. We tell him that we want to be his helper in the mission he is proclaiming and want to learn from him. We ask him to let us be with him, to heal, to strengthen, to comfort, to support.

Then we listen to him as he talks to others and to us. We listen as he reveals himself to us and tells us how much he loves us. We listen as He tells us how he gave himself for us.....how he longs to be part of our life.....how he desires to be the one we love.....how he thirsts for our love that we may thirst for him.

This is prayer, for prayer is nothing more than being in his presence, listening to God, his inspirations and accepting his gifts. Prayer is waiting for God to reveal himself. Prayer is sitting on the side-line waiting for God to approach us and make himself known to us. Prayer is waiting for God to let us know what he wants of us, how he needs us and how we can be of help to him.

Prayer is not a repetition of words; it's not necessarily at a set time; it's not counted or organised; it's not necessarily with others; it's not on a certain day of the week...It's a spontaneous relationship with the one who loves us and whom we love and want to be with. Prayer is waiting with the one who wants us to know him, love him, be with him.

In St Luke, XI11, we read two short verses about a woman who was bent over and so could not look up and see people. She was in the temple at the same time as Jesus. Jesus went to her. He looked, he saw, and he commanded. 'Stand tall.' She did and the first face she looked into was the face of Jesus. Unknown to herself, this woman had been waiting for Jesus to make himself known to her. She was in his presence and he approached her. She didn't need to ask for help since he already knew what she needed. She was there and, when he approached, she responded and Jesus could do with her what he wanted; he could be her friend.

I always think that he must have had a grin on his face as he saw her astonishment. We can be so like that woman. We look down at what is around us but Jesus wants us to stand tall, look at him and love him, just as she did. He keeps asking us to look up and see him. That's prayer!

At this point I would like to mention Liturgical Prayer/ The Mass. In our family and personal lives we have times when we gather for celebration....birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas etc. We would not use these times to open our hearts in a very personal way to anyone because that would not be appropriate.

We might be lucky to catch a moment with our special, loved one as we nip into the kitchen to wash glasses, fetch more food etc. but all that gives time for is a quick, 'Love you!'

The Mass is like this. We gather as God's family to celebrate the anniversary of Jesus' death and resurrection. We acknowledge our sinfulness but we don't specify our sins. That would not be appropriate. The 'quick nip into the kitchen' is Communion time, the time to say, 'Love you!' and to hear his reply, 'Love you too!' Then it's back to the liturgy, the family celebration. Personal prayer and the liturgy are both necessary and important segments of our life of prayer. One supports and strengthens the other.

EXERCISE: SET ASIDE HALF AN HOUR.

.LIGHT A CANDLE.

ASK FOR THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

SETTLE DOWN, read and reflect on LUKE 13. vv 10 - 13

Be that woman. Wait for God to approach. Listen to what he has to say. What does he suggest for you today? Look at his smile and his joy at your recognition and quietly listen for his words of love, pleasure and gladness at your awareness of him. Just sit with Jesus, keep him company. Let Jesus fill your heart and your mind. Be still and rest in his presence.

Remember: LISTEN IS AN ANAGRAM OF SILENT!

Be quiet, be silent, be attentive for that is prayer.

God will speak but our heart must be open and receptive for what he wants to tell us.